

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A hermetically encapsulated refrigerant compressor, comprising:

a hermetically sealed compressor housing;

a piston-cylinder unit disposed in an interior of the housing, said piston-cylinder unit compressing a refrigerant and comprising a suction valve with an intake port arranged in a valve plate of the suction valve;

a suction muffler through which the refrigerant flows to the suction valve of the piston-cylinder unit, said suction muffler being disposed on the cylinder head of the piston-cylinder unit and comprising:

a filling volume;

an inlet cross section through which refrigerant flows into the suction muffler; and

a compensating volume in connection with the

suction muffler and the interior of the compressor housing and in which the refrigerant oscillates,

wherein the inlet cross section is simultaneously a connecting port between the compensating volume and the filling volume, and the compensating volume is formed by an outer tube which tightly encloses the intake port or the inlet cross section and encloses ~~the~~ a refrigerant suction pipe at least along a section, ~~and is~~ said outer tube being directed into the compressor housing, ~~which~~ wherein the suction pipe extends into the interior of the compressor housing, wherein the outer tube opens via a compensating opening and communicates with the interior of the compressor housing, and

wherein the compensating volume and filling volume are arranged so that refrigerant from the suction pipe flows into the compensating volume by passing through the filling volume.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The hermetically encapsulated refrigerant compressor according to claim 9, wherein the suction pipe is guided ~~shortly~~ to a point ~~shortly~~ before the intake port in the outer tube.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The hermetically encapsulated refrigerant compressor according to claim 9, wherein

the outer tube and the suction muffler are provided with an integral configuration.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The hermetically encapsulated refrigerant compressor according to claim 9, wherein the compensating volume is 0.5 to 1.2 times the working volume of the piston of the piston-cylinder unit.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The hermetically encapsulated refrigerant compressor according to claim 9, wherein the compensating volume is at least half the working volume of the piston of the piston-cylinder unit.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The hermetically encapsulated refrigerant compressor according to claim 9, wherein a smallest flow cross section in the compensating volume has a cross-sectional surface area which corresponds to $1/4$ to $3/4$ of a cross-sectional surface area of the intake port.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The hermetically encapsulated refrigerant compressor according to claim 9, wherein a cross-sectional surface area of the compensating volume is at most 1.5 times the piston head surface area of the piston of the

piston-cylinder unit.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The hermetically encapsulated refrigerant compressor according to claim 9, wherein the compensating volume has a circular cross section and a ratio of a length of the compensating volume to its diameter is higher than 10.